

was passed at the last Assembly. That Committee, with a just sense of its duties, undertook only to revise, codify, abbreviate and make consistent the existing Law; and they modestly forbore any attempts to make a new School Law, or to add to the old one.

I was myself very desirous to propose, in conjunction with that member of the Revisal Committee who was in the Assembly, a new School Law; but these difficulties were in the way, *viz.*:—The Revisal Committee had to revise *all* the Law, the School Law included; a member of it could not, therefore, consistently sign the revisal of the School Law, and then, as a member of the Assembly, offer a new Law as a substitute.

Such a substitute, therefore, had to come from some other; and the member alluded to, told me that if it were such as he could approve, he would willingly advocate its adoption when offered as an amendment to the work of the Revisal Committee. But in such a case it would come up for discussion and consideration under the most unfavorable circumstances. The revisal of the whole Statute Law was a great work: to pass it all at one session was also an arduous task. It, the revisal, therefore, had to be hurried through without undergoing the discussion and consideration annually accorded to new Acts of Assembly: the Legislature had, very properly, to rely, to a great extent, on the judgment of the Committee who revised the Law. If they had not, they would still have been in session.

Hence any one offering a new Law, of any length, on a matter of such importance as our Common Schools, as an entire substitute for the revisal of the Committee, would have met with decided opposition to his plan, in spite of any intrinsic merits which that plan might have possessed; and possibly, if such a result were not very probable, this substitute, if not at once rejected as a whole, would have been hastily "cut to pieces," the original revisal sharing the same fate, and then the two patched together in such a way as to make the substitute any thing else but desirable. Therefore, it was my own opinion, and that of wise and judicious members, that it was best not to attempt any serious alterations of the